

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. VM7031422003  
Varian No. 03-010US

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 35-47 and 51-53, as follows. A complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image;  
wherein the third x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing a image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
8. (Previously Presented) A system for processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
means for collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
means for determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
means for collecting a third x-ray image without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
means for enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image.
9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for adjusting comprises means for subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
11. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:  
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image;  
wherein the third x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image.

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12. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
13. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
15. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
18. (Previously Presented) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
collecting two or more x-ray images;  
determining a composite image using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;  
collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the two or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image;  
wherein the input x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the two or more x-ray images.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the collecting the two or more x-ray images comprises generating the two or more x-ray images in a sequence.

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20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the at least two of the two or more x-ray images.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
25. (Previously Presented) A system for processing an image, comprising:
  - means for collecting two or more x-ray images;
  - means for determining a composite image using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;
  - means for collecting an input x-ray image without performing a weighted subtraction of the two or more x-ray images, wherein at least a portion of one of the two or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and
  - means for enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image.
26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for performing an image averaging on the at least two of the two or more x-ray images.

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27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for enhancing comprises means for subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:

collecting two or more x-ray images;

determining a composite image using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;

collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the two or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and

enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image;

wherein the input x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the two or more x-ray images.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the collecting the two or more images comprises generating the two or more x-ray images in a sequence.

30. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the at least two of the two or more x-ray images.

32. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.

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33. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.

34. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.

35-47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

51-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the feature in the third x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the first x-ray image and the second x-ray image using x-ray having a same energy level.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for enhancing the feature in the third x-ray image does not include a contrast media.

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57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for generating the first and the second x-ray images using x-ray having a same energy level.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the feature in the third x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

59. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the process further comprises generating the first x-ray image and the second x-ray image using x-ray having a same energy level.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the feature in the input x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for enhancing the feature in the input x-ray image does not include a contrast media.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the feature in the input x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

65. (Canceled)